GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:319
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002
STREAMLINING OF PASSPORT ISSUING PROCEDURE
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government propose to bring about improvements in the passport issuing procedure so that the criminals do not succeed in getting passports and also to deal with the problem of fake passports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA)

(a) Yes.

(b) Government has launched a scheme of machine writing of passports which have the photograph and the signature of the applicant scanned and printed on the passport thus making forgery extremely difficult. New security features have also been added to the passport booklets to detect forgeries. Further, fresh (first time) passports are not being issued without clear police verification reports. Instructions have been issued to the passport offices for careful scrutiny of the documents at the submission stage itself. A project to scan all the passport files in the country has been launched. This would allow files to be readily available when cases of fake passports are detected.